



MARVEL
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83
OCT

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

THIS ISSUE'S GOT **EVERYTHING!**

SPIDEY IN ACTION!...

...THE BLACK CAT BACK ON THE PROWL!...



...AND THE TRIAL OF THE PUNISHER!

SO, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! **BUY IT!**



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

BILL MANTLO * GREG LAROCQUE * JIM MOONEY * JOE ROSEN * GEORGE ROUSSOS * TOM DEFALCO & DANNY FINGEROTH * JIM SHOOTER
SCRIPT PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS EDITORS CHIEF

DELUSIONS



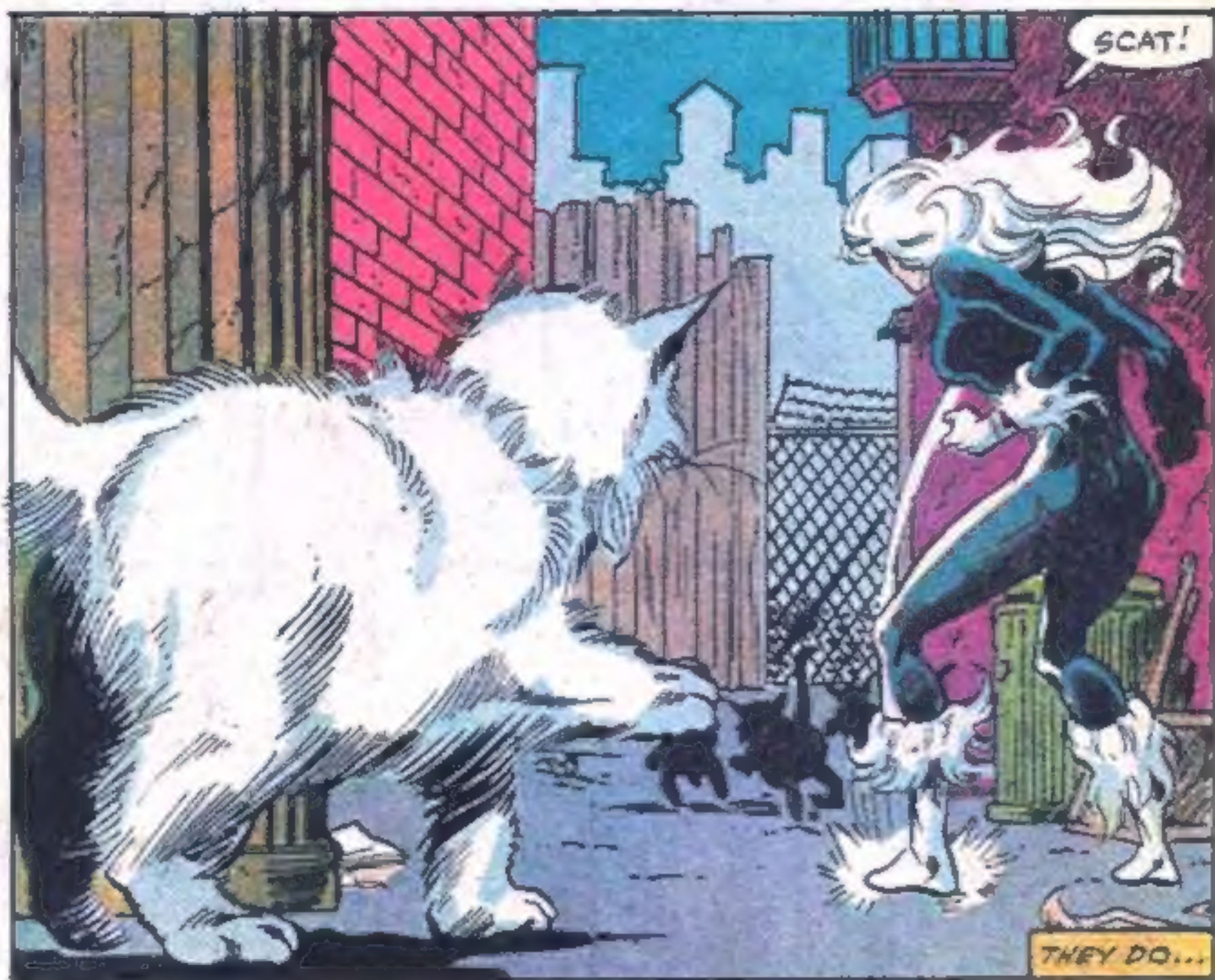
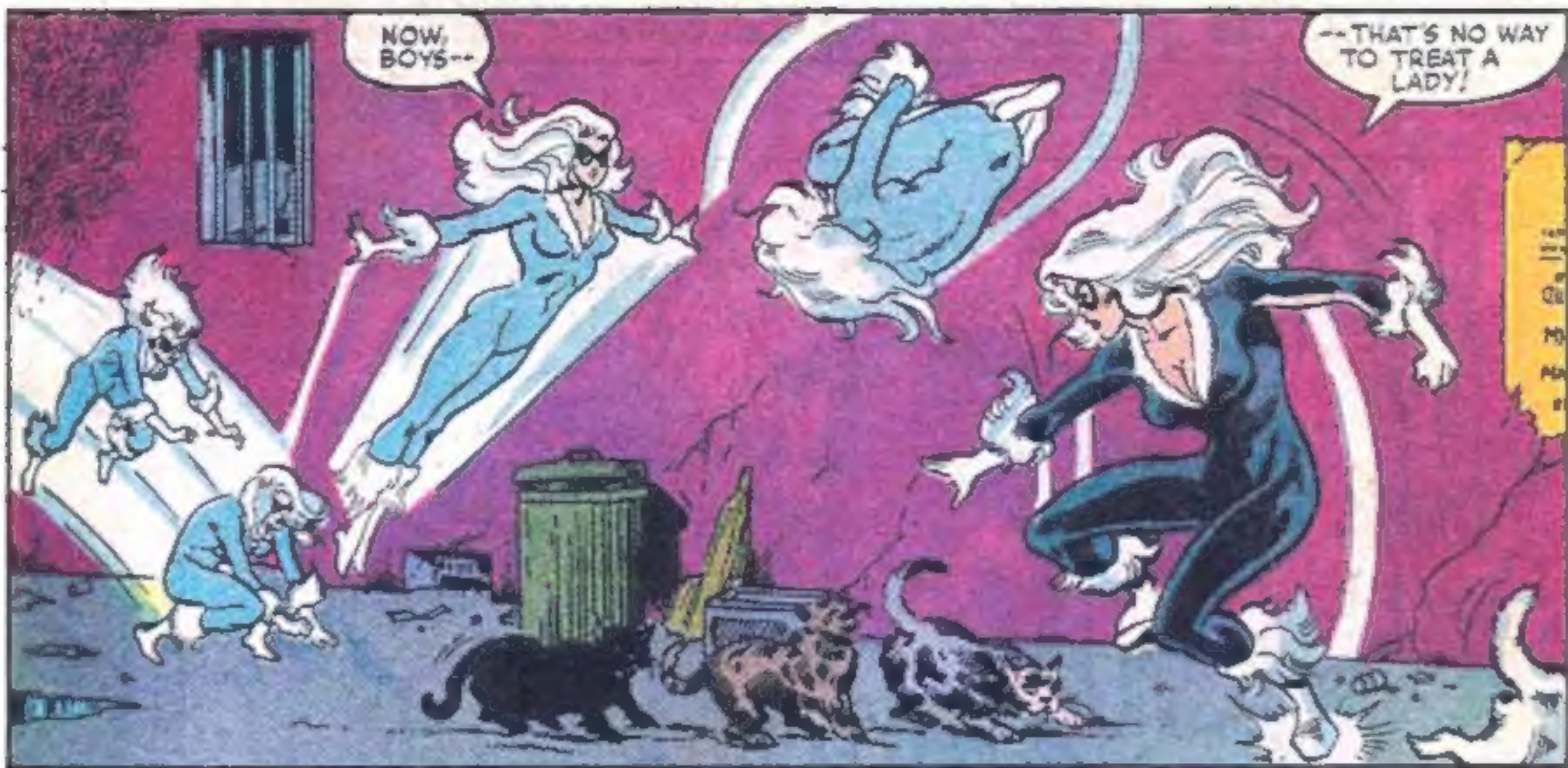
MEEOWRRR!

THE PACK WERE ALL ALLEY CATS, TOUGH AS THEY COME.



SHE MADE THE MISTAKE OF WANDERING INTO THEIR TERRITORY.

BUT SHE'S GOT A GUARDIAN ANGEL.

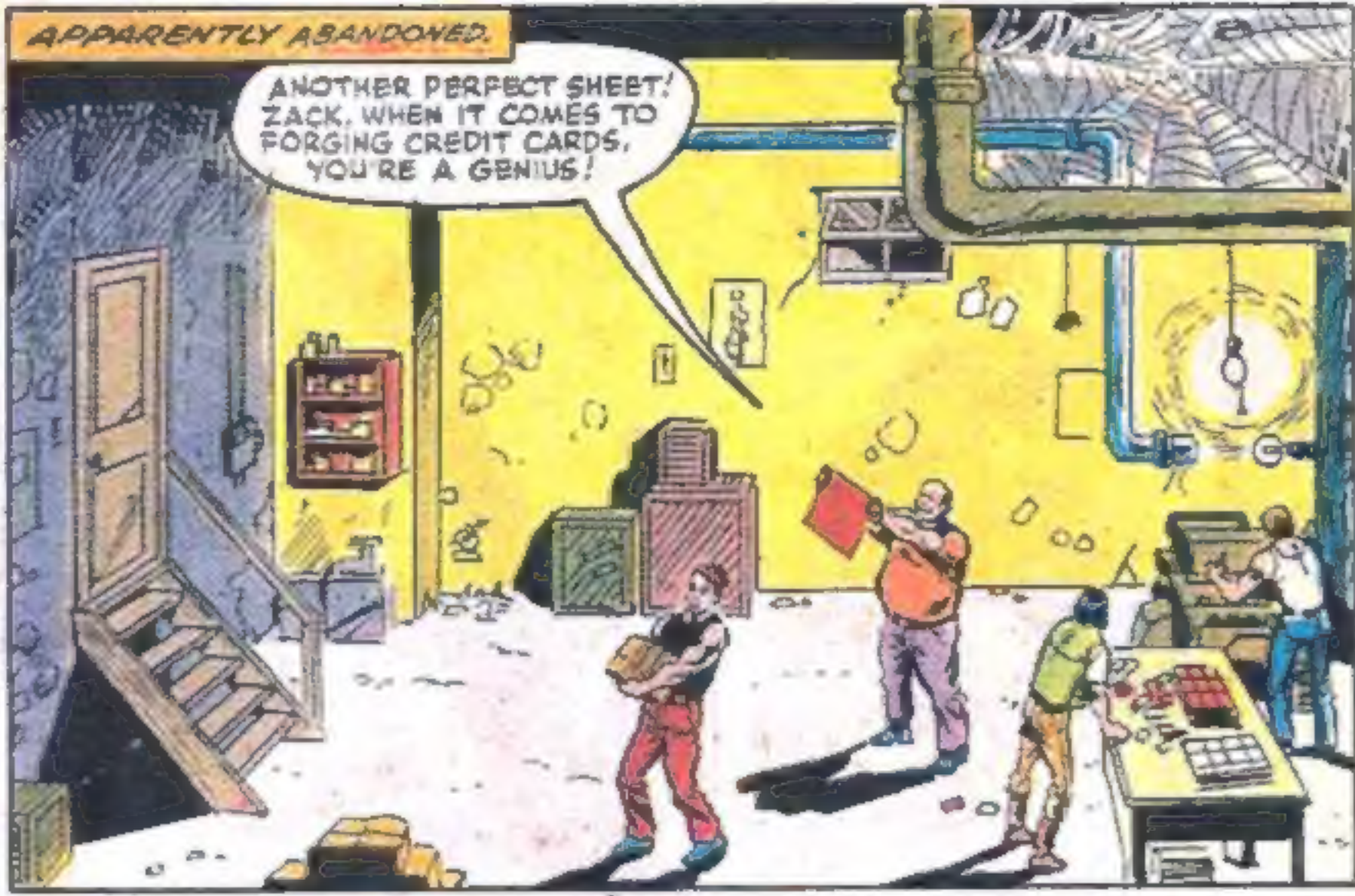




ELSEWHERE, THE SOUND OF A VACUUM PRESS COMES FAINTLY FROM THE BASEMENT OF AN APPARENTLY ABANDONED WAREHOUSE.

APPARENTLY ABANDONED.

ANOTHER PERFECT SHEET! ZACK, WHEN IT COMES TO FORGING CREDIT CARDS, YOU'RE A GENIUS!



YOU SHOULD PUT THAT ON YOUR RESUME, ZACK! IT MIGHT LAND YOU A JOB PRESSING LICENSE PLATES IN THE STATE PEN!

SPIDER-MAN!

THRAK!

D-DON'T PANIC! WE OUTNUMBER HIM FOUR-TO-ONE!



AH, BUT I POSSESS THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER!

STACKED UP AGAINST THAT, WHAT'S YOUR CLAIM TO FAME?





CUTE SCAM. A CROOKED EMPLOYEE AT SOME STORE SWIPES A CHARGE CARD RECEIPT SLIP. IT'S THEN SOLD TO THIS OUTFIT.



THEY MAKE UP COUNTERFEIT CARDS. ADD THE NAME AND NUMBER AND FORGE THE SIGNATURE OF THE STOLEN RECEIPT.

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING, ARE YOU? HMMM, MUST BE ALMOST VISITING HOURS AT THE HOSPITAL.



YEAH.

WELL, THEN--DON'T LET ME KEEP YOU FROM YOUR LADY-LOVE!

TELL THE BLACK CAT I SAID HELLO!



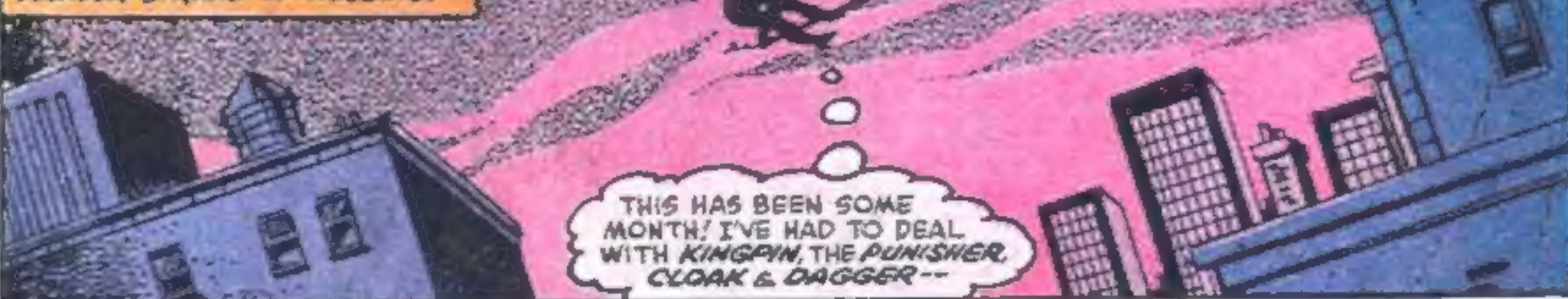
WILL DO, CAPTAIN!

AND IF THE CAT EVER DUMPS YOU, WEB-SLINGER...WHY NOT GIVE ME A CALL?



POLICE CAPTAIN JEAN DEWOLFF GOES BACK ABOUT HER WORK...

...WHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE DAWN-TOUCHED CITY, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN SWINGS ON A SLENDER STRAND OF WEBBING.



THIS HAS BEEN SOME MONTH! I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH KINGPIN, THE PUNISHER, CLOAK & DAGGER--

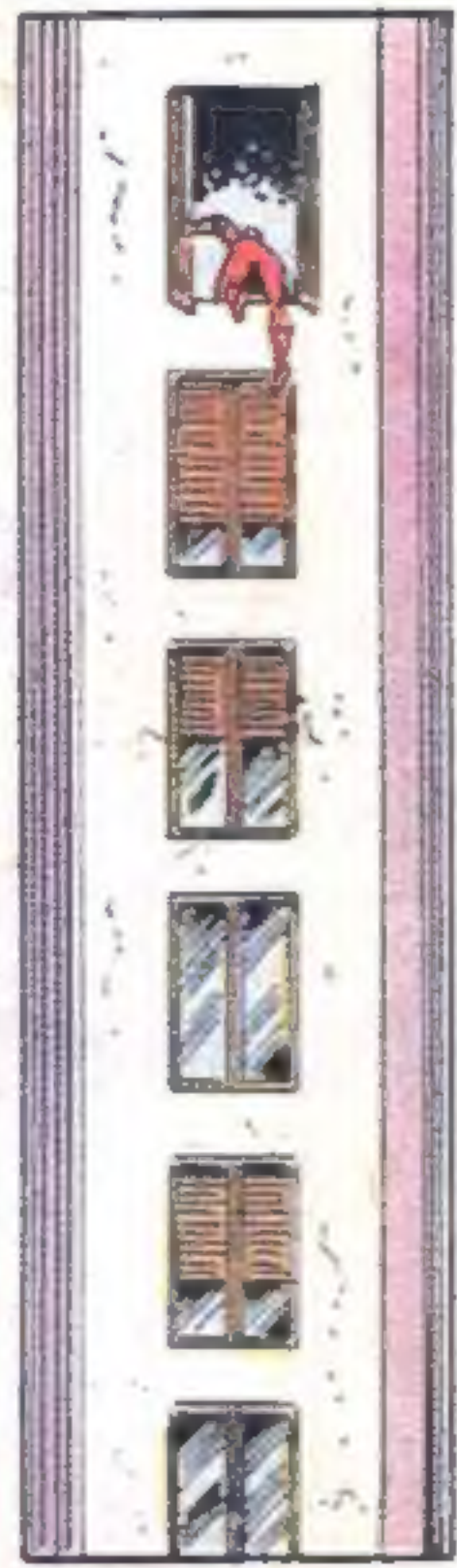
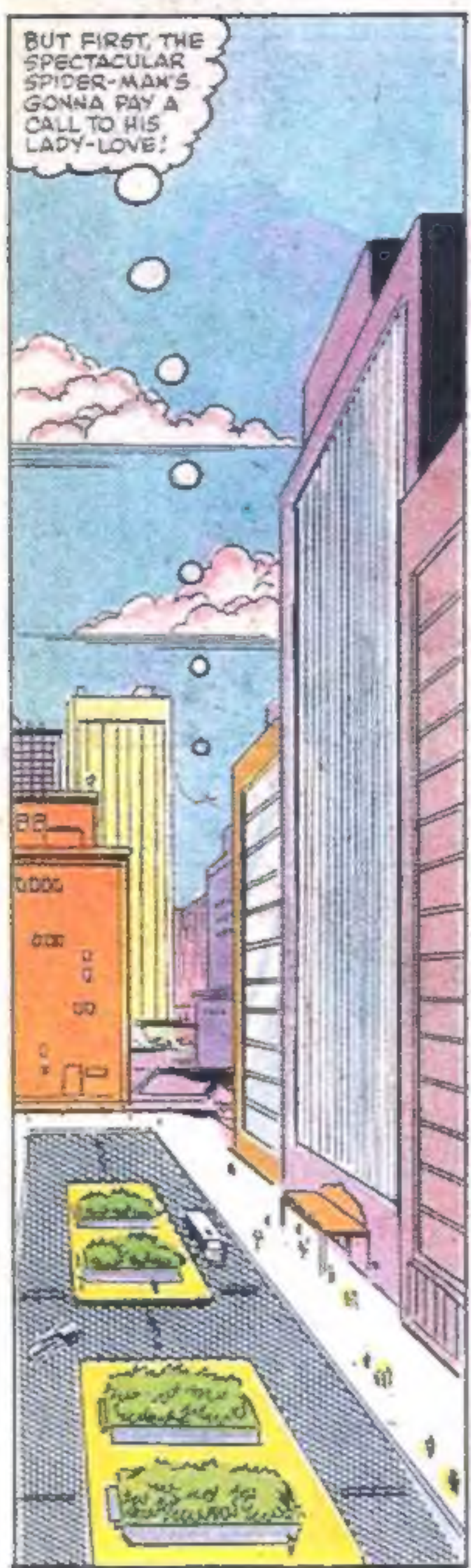
--AND THE HOMICIDAL HOBGOBLIN, A VILLAIN WHO'S SO CAGEY...



...THAT HE DRESSED A TWO-BIT THUG NAMED LEFTY DONOVAN IN HIS COSTUME, AND SENT HIM TO HIS DEATH!

NOW EVERYBODY THINKS THE HOBGOBLIN'S DEAD. EVERYBODY BUT ME.

*SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #225--T&D





FELICIA?

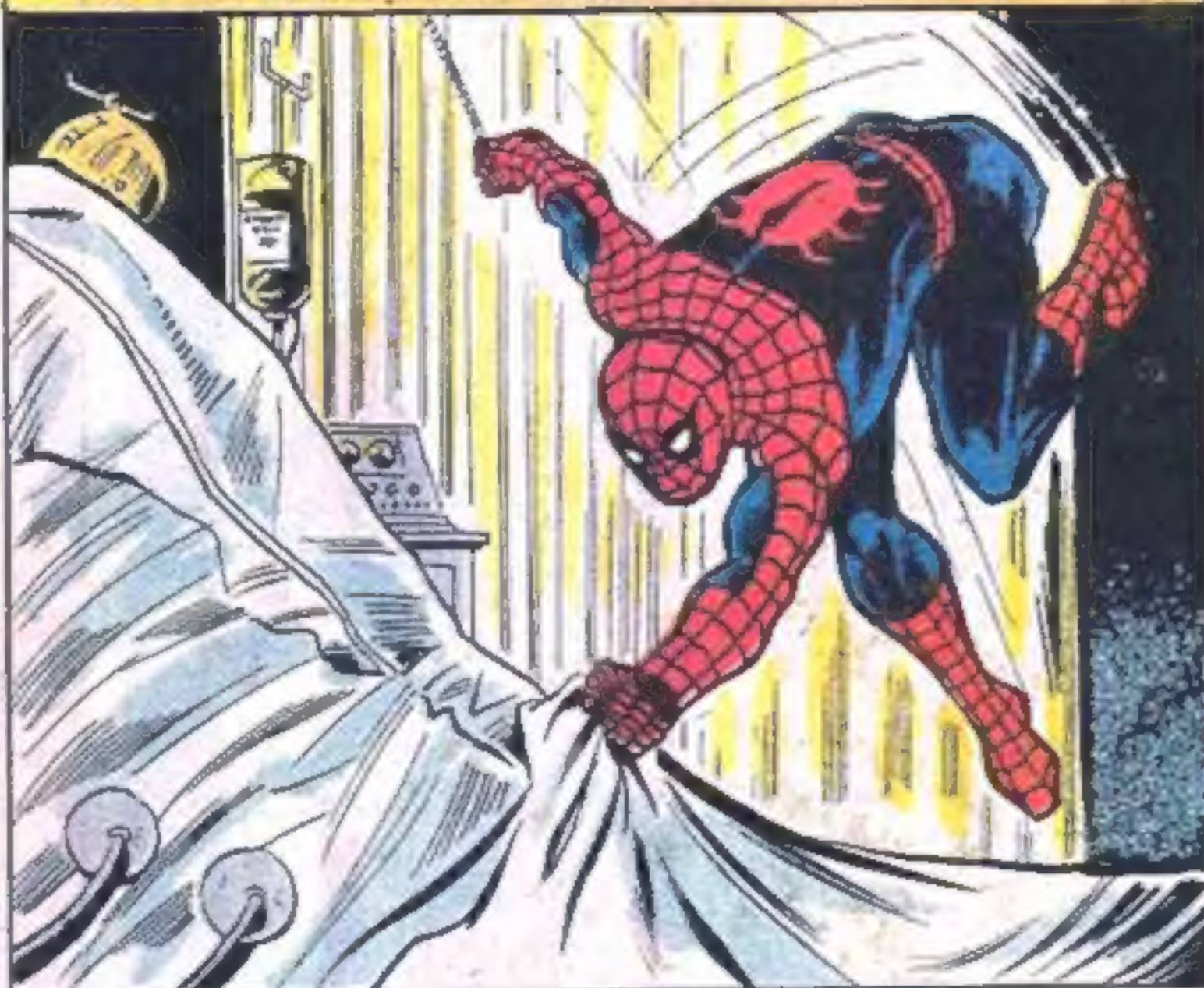


NO ANSWER, AND FEAR CLUTCHES AT SPIDER-MAN'S HEART.

FELICIA HARDY-- THE BLACK CAT-- IS SUPPOSED TO OCCUPY THIS ROOM.



LIKE SPIDER-MAN, THE CAT HAS ENEMIES. TO KEEP HER SAFE, HE'S BATTLED THE KINGPIN, THE OWL, DR. OCTOPUS.



BUT WHAT IF SHE HAD OTHER FOES, OF WHOM HE WAS UNAWARE, CAPABLE OF STRIKING AT HER IN HIS ABSENCE?

FELICIA??!



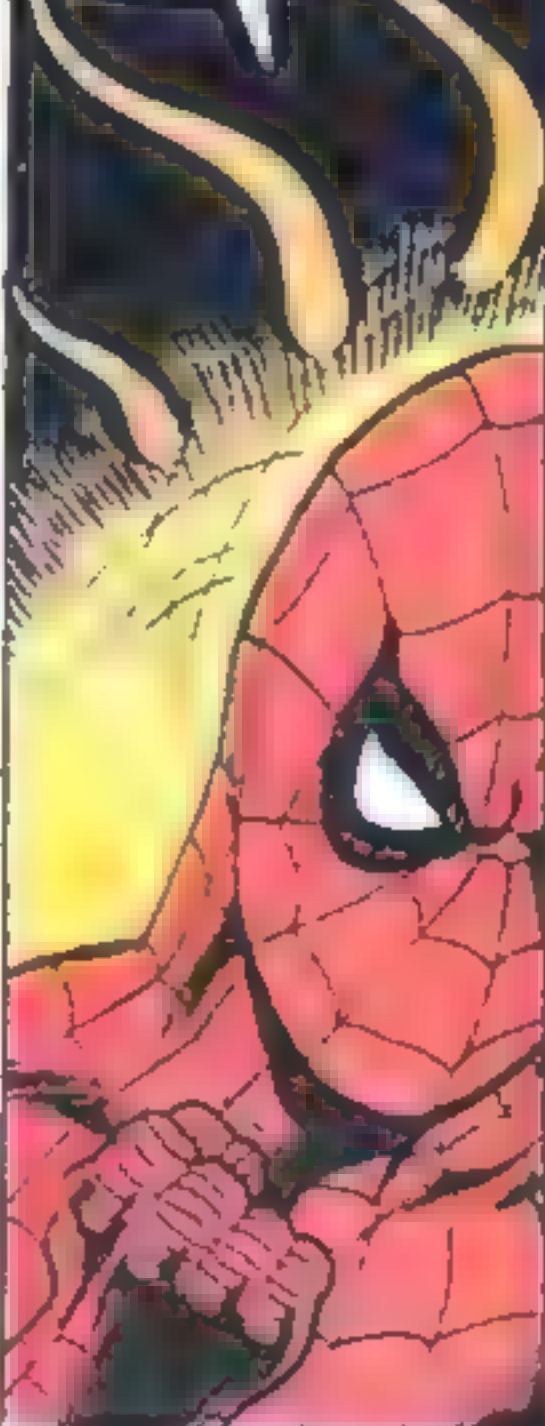
OH NO.
HOW COULD
I HAVE LEFT
HER?



IF SOMEONE'S
TAKEN HER HURT
HER... I'VE HAVE
FAILED FELICIA...
JUST AS I ONCE
FAILED UNCLE
BEN AND --

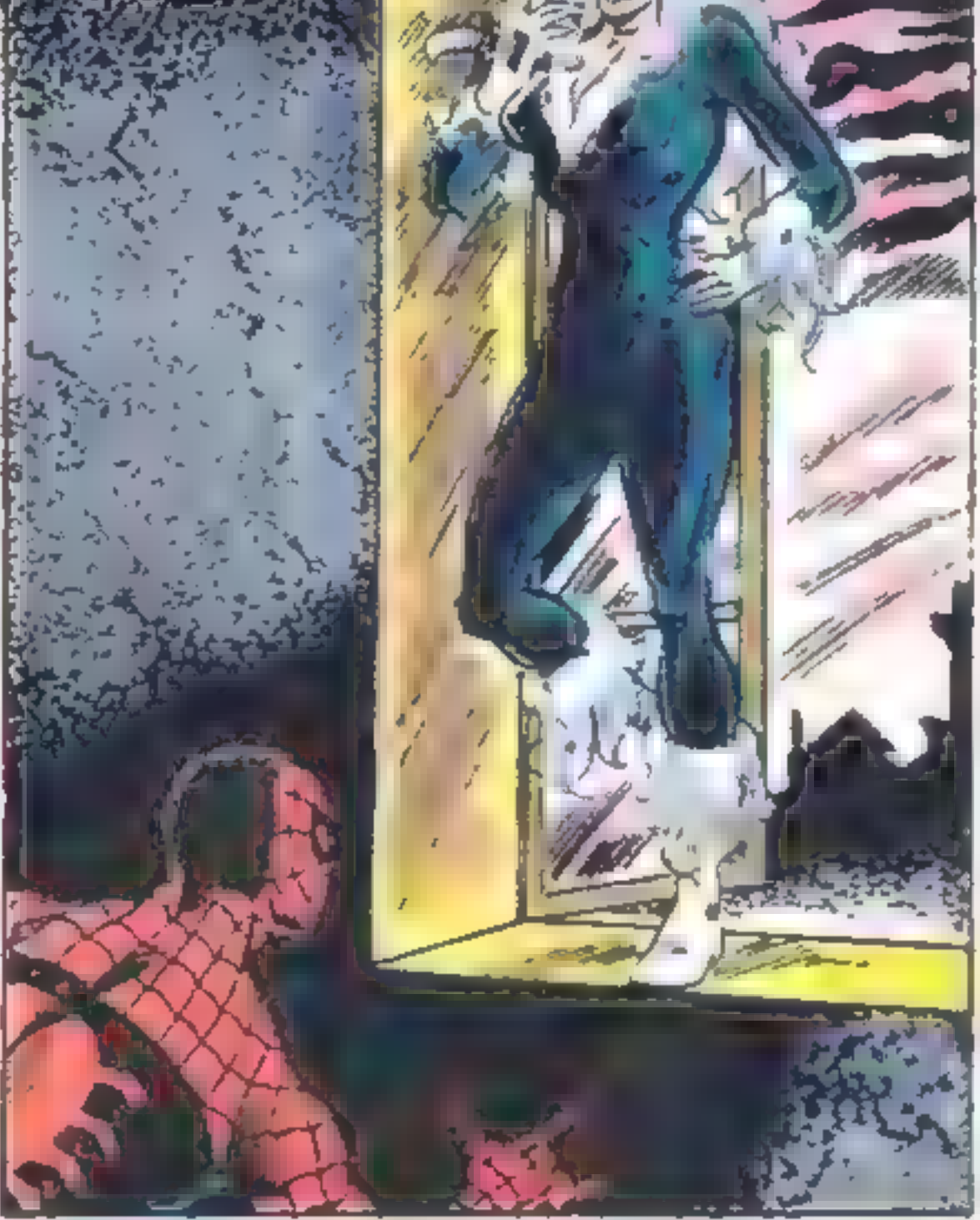


EH-- BEHIND
ME--!

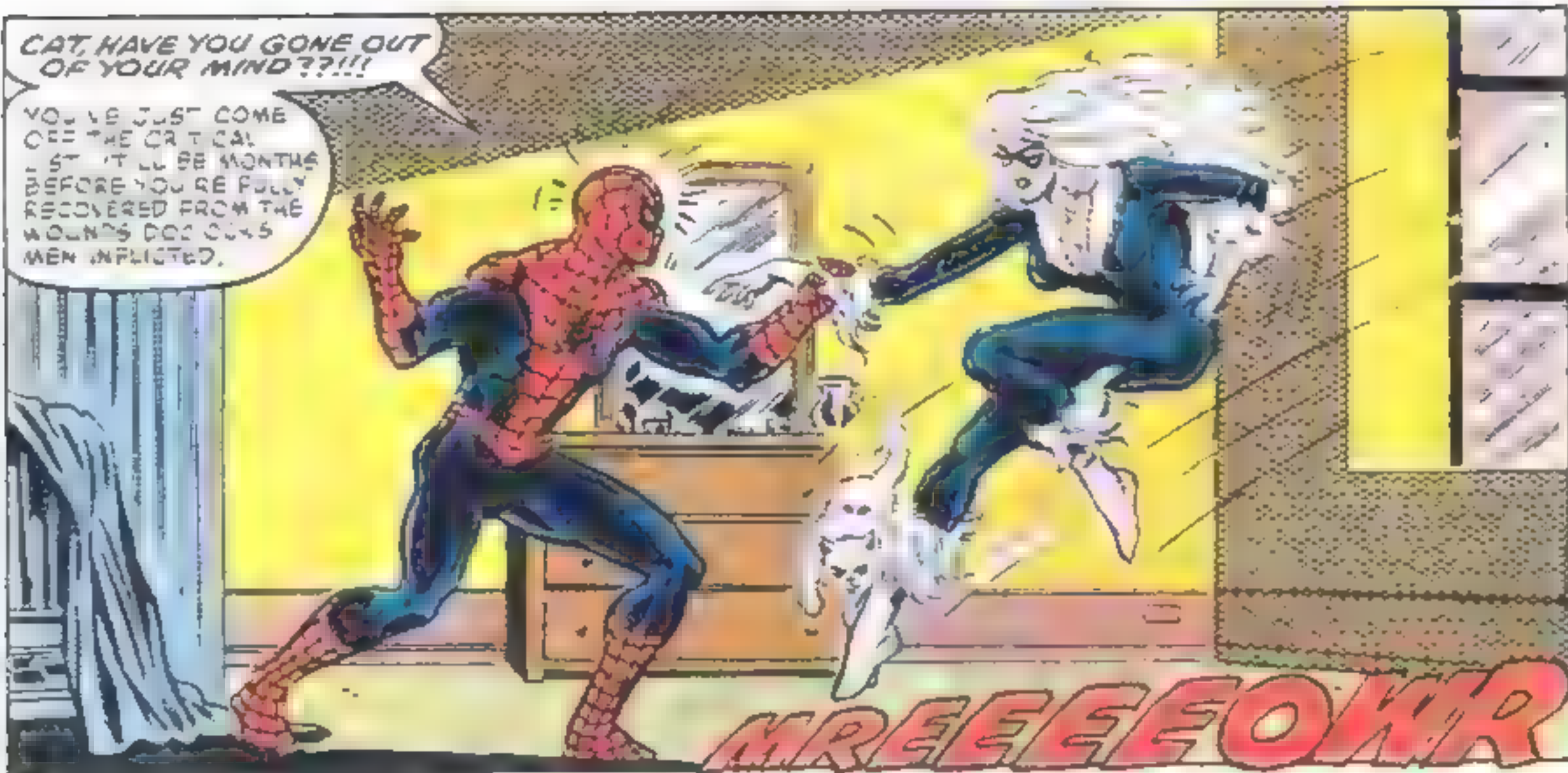


HIS SPIDER-SENSE TINGLES
AT ONCE, HE BRACES FOR
DANGER.

OH, HI, LOVER! IT
WAS SUCH A NICE
NIGHT OUT. I JUST
HAD TO TAKE A
STALK!



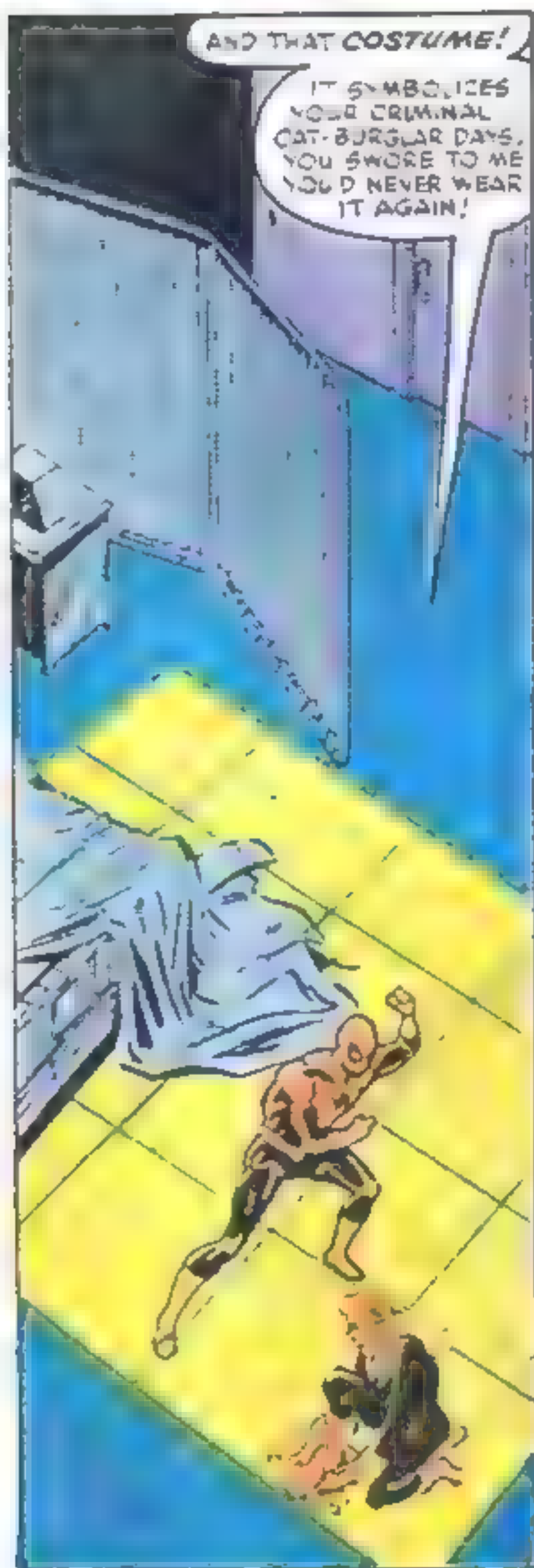
HE IS BE-
GINNING TO
REALIZE
THAT THEIR
RELATIONSHIP
WILL BE...
DIFFICULT



CAT, HAVE YOU GONE OUT OF YOUR MIND??!!!

YOU'VE JUST COME OFF THE CRITICAL LIST. IT'LL BE MONTHS BEFORE YOU'RE FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE WOUNDS DOG COPS MEN INFLICTED.

MREEEEOW



AND THAT COSTUME!

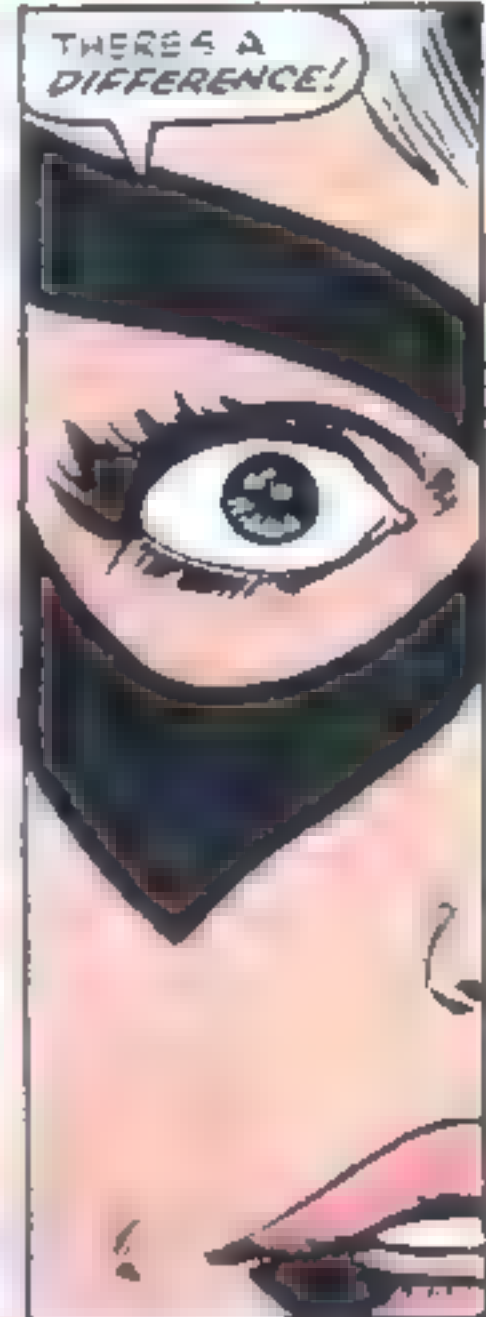
IT SYMBOLIZES YOUR CRIMINAL CAT-BURGLAR DAYS. YOU SWORE TO ME YOU'D NEVER WEAR IT AGAIN!



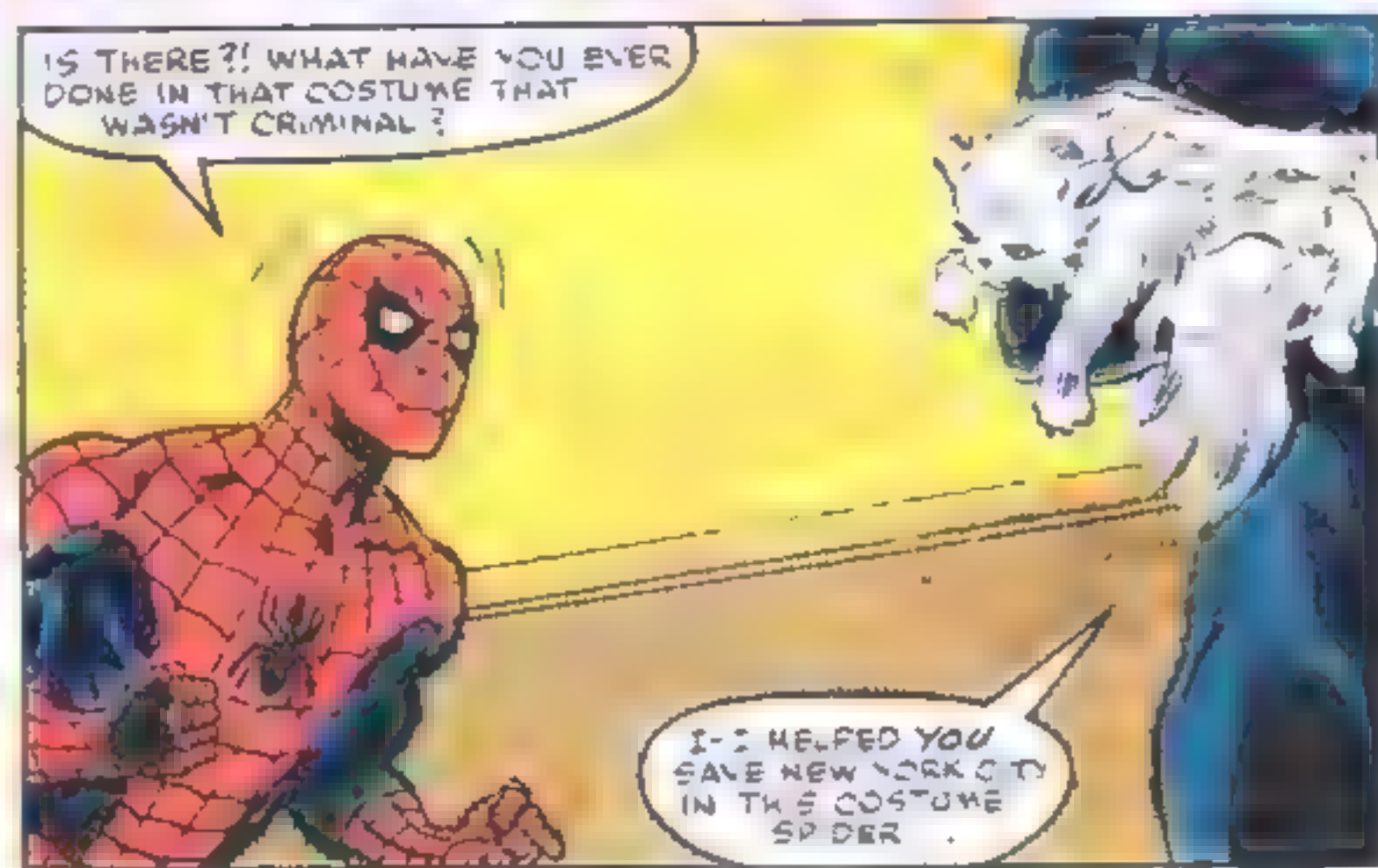
N-NO, I NEVER SWORE NOT TO BE THE BLACK CAT AGAIN, LOVER!



I SWORE TO GO STRAIGHT!



THERE'S A DIFFERENCE!



IS THERE?! WHAT HAVE YOU EVER DONE IN THAT COSTUME THAT WASN'T CRIMINAL?

I-I HELPED YOU SAVE NEW YORK CITY IN THIS COSTUME SPIDER

AND I'D HOPED
THAT WHEN I WAS
WELL AGAIN THAT WE
COULD CONTINUE
AS A TEAM!



ME AND THE CAT... A TEAM--
CREEPING THROUGH THE NIGHT
TOGETHER--



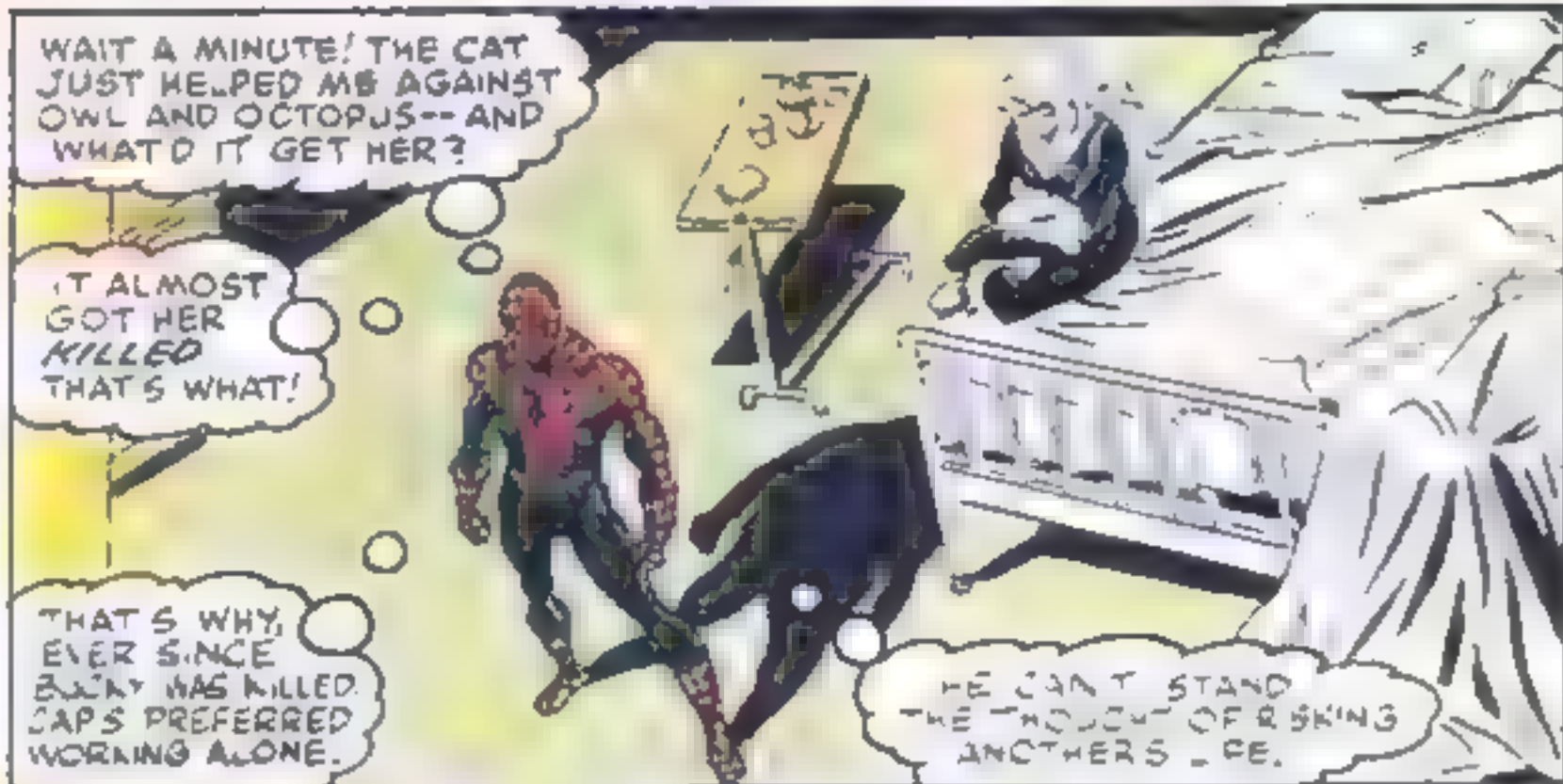
--LIKE
CAPTAIN
AMERICA
AND
BUCKY?

YEAH, OF ALL THE WOMEN I'VE EVER LOVED THE CAT'S THE
ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF SUPERHEROING WITH ME!

WAIT A MINUTE! THE CAT
JUST HELPED ME AGAINST
OWL AND OCTOPUS-- AND
WHAT'D IT GET HER?

IT ALMOST
GOT HER
KILLED
THAT'S WHAT!

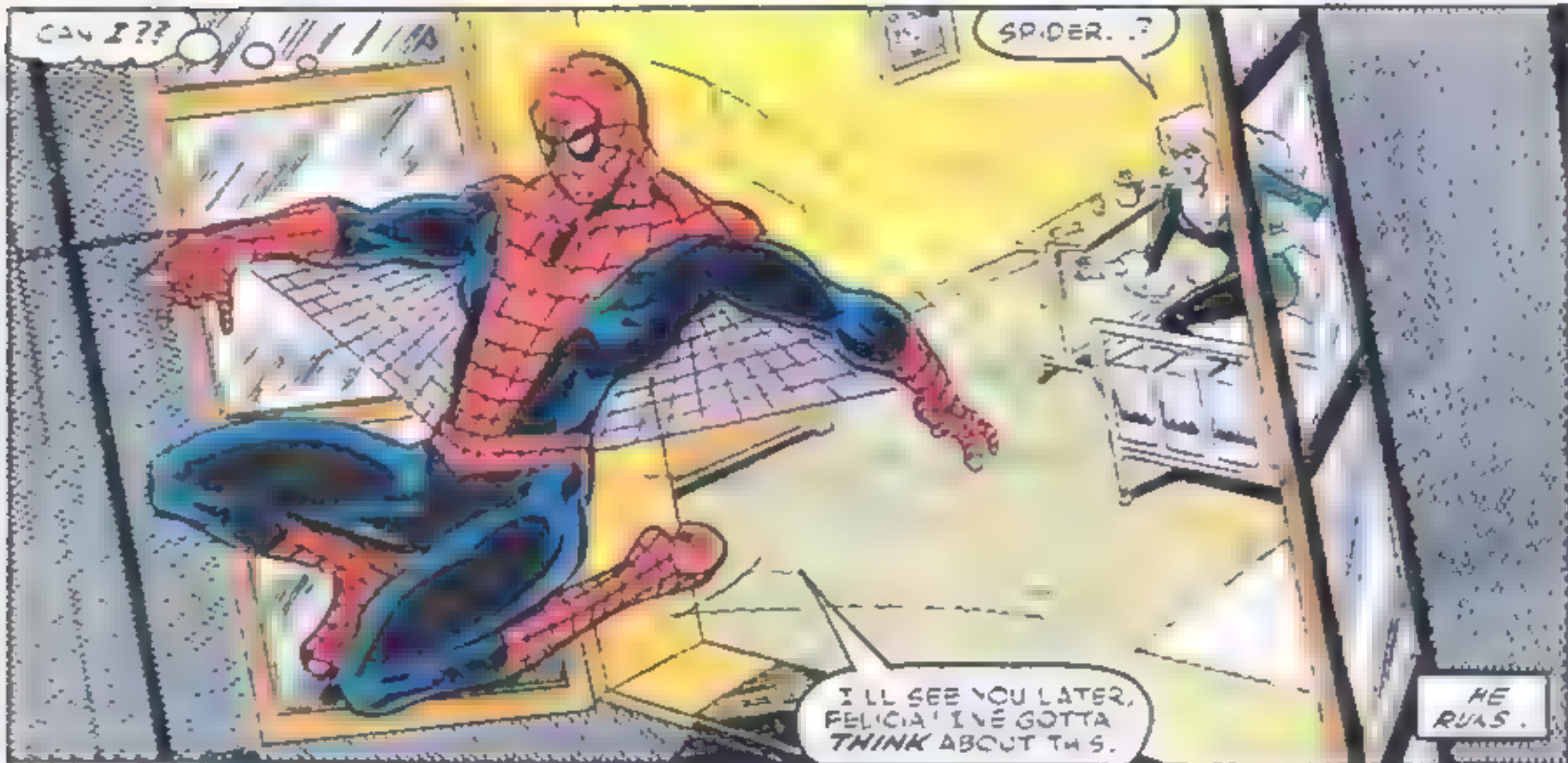
THAT'S WHY,
EVER SINCE
BUCKY WAS KILLED,
CAP'S PREFERRED
WORKING ALONE.



HE CAN'T STAND
THE THOUGHT OF RISKING
ANOTHERS - ME.

CAN I???

SPIDER. ?



I'LL SEE YOU LATER,
FELICIA! I'VE GOTTA
THINK ABOUT THIS.

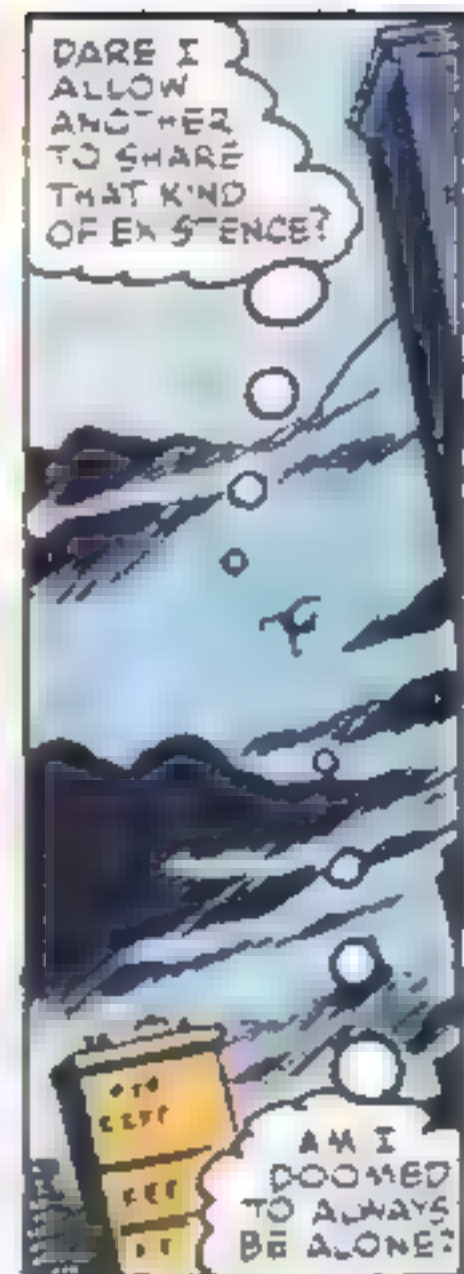
HE
RUS.



BUT HE
CAN'T ES-
CAPE THE
PROBLEM.

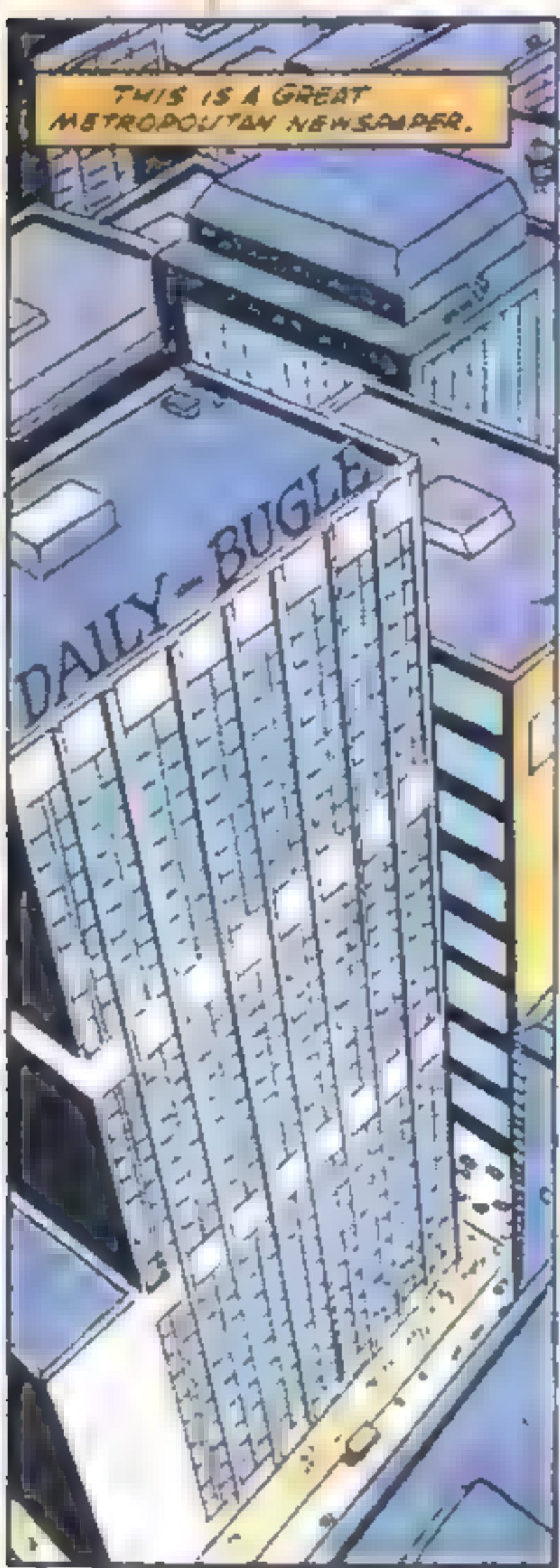
I'VE GOT
SO MANY
ENEMIES!

MY LIFE
IS CONSTANTLY
IN DANGER!



DARE I
ALLOW
ANOTHER
TO SHARE
THAT KIND
OF EXISTENCE?

AM I
DOOMED
TO ALWAYS
BE ALONE?



THIS IS A GREAT
METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER.



ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN—
I'M HERE! LET'S GET
DOWN TO BUSINESS,
SHALL WE?

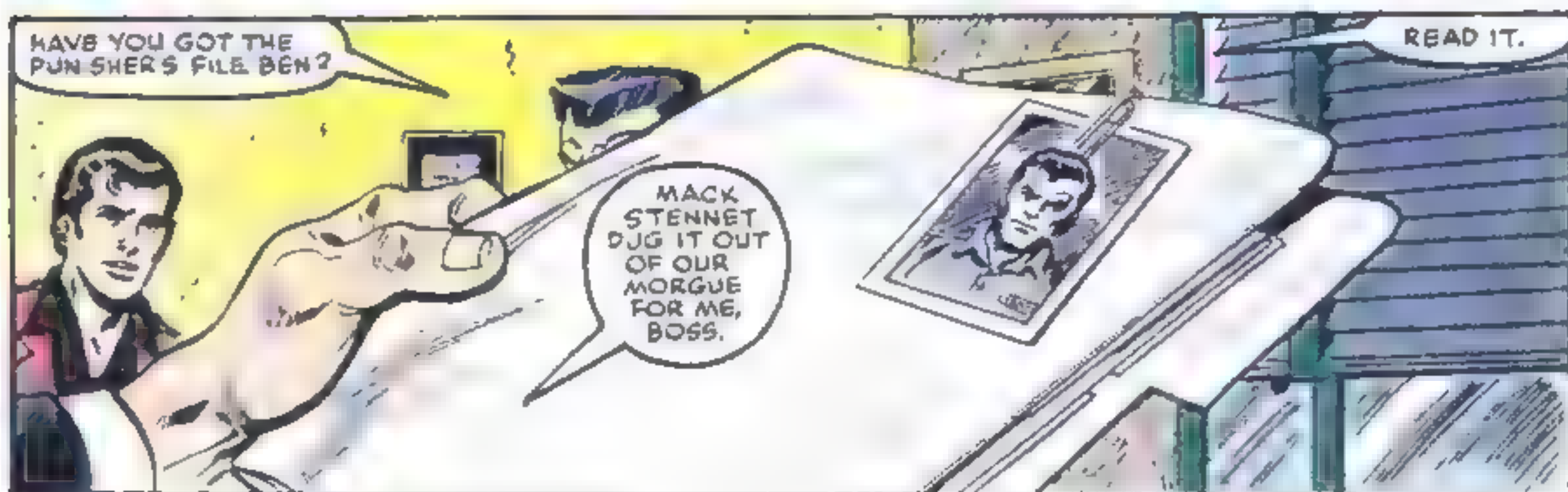
KIND OF KOFF-
EARLY, ISN'T IT,
MR. JAMESON?

IT SURE IS EARLY,
BEN. YOU'VE ONLY
GONE THROUGH
ONE PACK OF
CIGARETTES.



LISTEN CLOSE URICH--
PARKER. THE STORY
YOU'LL BE COVERING
TODAY IS NO JOKE.

THE *PUNISHER*
COMES UP FOR A
HEARING TODAY,
AND I WANT TO
COORDINATE
THE *BUGLE*'S
COVERAGE

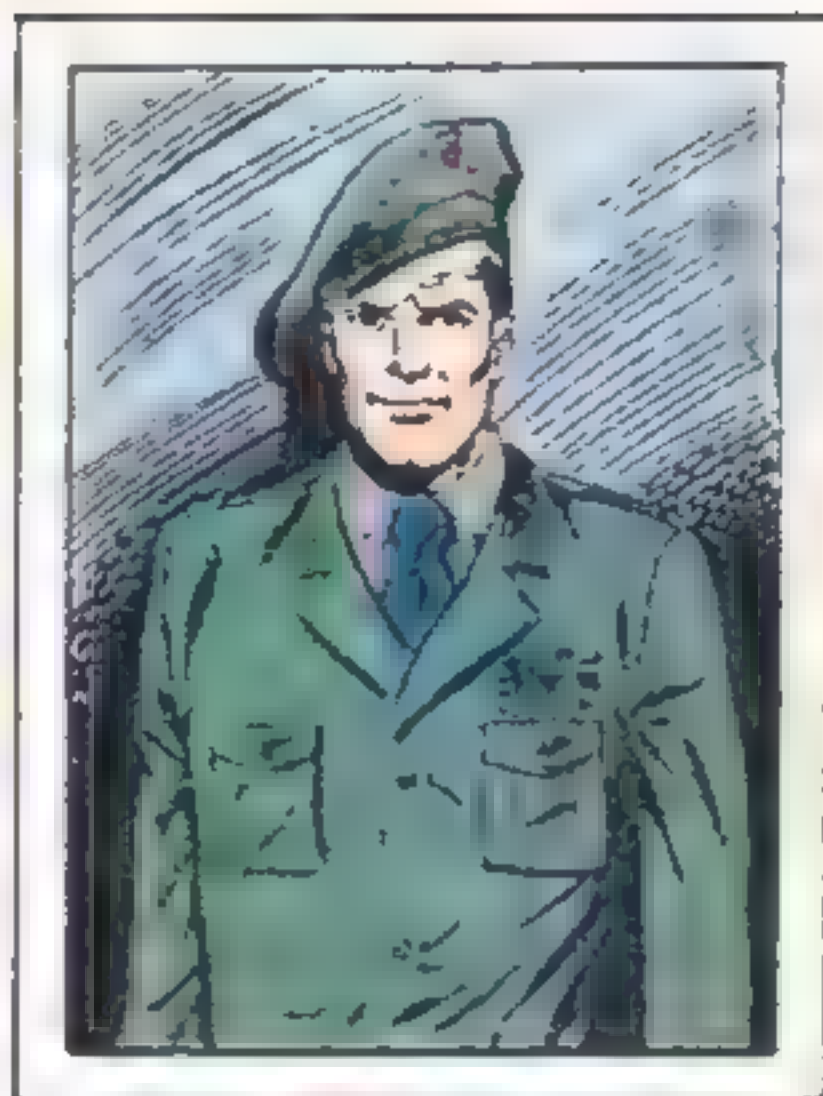


THE PUNISHER WAS
A SOLDIER IN
VIET NAM--

--TWICE PROMOTED
IN THE FIELD IN RECOG-
NITION OF HIS EXTRA-
ORDINARY COMBAT
ABILITY.

HE WAS DECORATED WITH
THE MEDAL OF HONOR,
THE BRONZE STAR, AND--
FOUR TIMES--THE PURPLE
HEART.

HE WAS ABOUT
TO BE AWARDED
THE PRESIDENTIAL
MEDAL OF FREEDOM
...WHEN HE DESERTED!



HE WAS ON LEAVE--STAYING
WITH HIS FAMILY--THEY DECIDED TO GO
ON A PICNIC



THEY CHOSE
A QUIET
SPOT--THE
SCENE OF A
GANGLAND
EXECUTION.



BEING WITNESSES TO THE MURDER, THEY
WERE GUNNED DOWN MERCILESSLY.



DAILY BUGLE

MOTHER AND CHILDREN KILLED BY MOBSTERS STUMBLED ON GANGLAND EXECUTION

ONLY THE PUNISHER SURVIVED.
THOSE WHO KNEW HIM

...SAY THE LOSS OF HIS
FAMILY DROVE HIM MAD

New York - a peaceful family picnic
ended in a bloodbath today as a mother
and her two children were gunned down
for having witnessed a brutal gangland
execution.



THE BEREAVED FATHER



"I SUPPOSE SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAN DRIVE A MAN MAD"

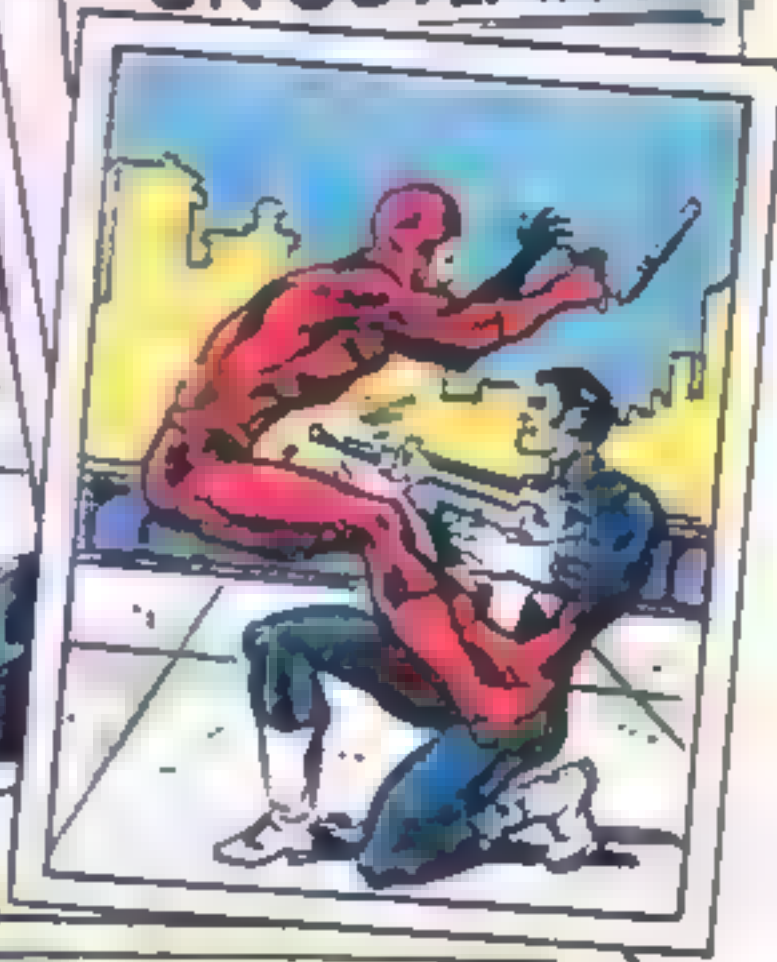
"THE PUNISHER BECAME A COSTUMED VIGILANTE"

"ARMED TO THE TEETH HE WAGED A ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME."

PUNISHER'S WAR ON CRIME

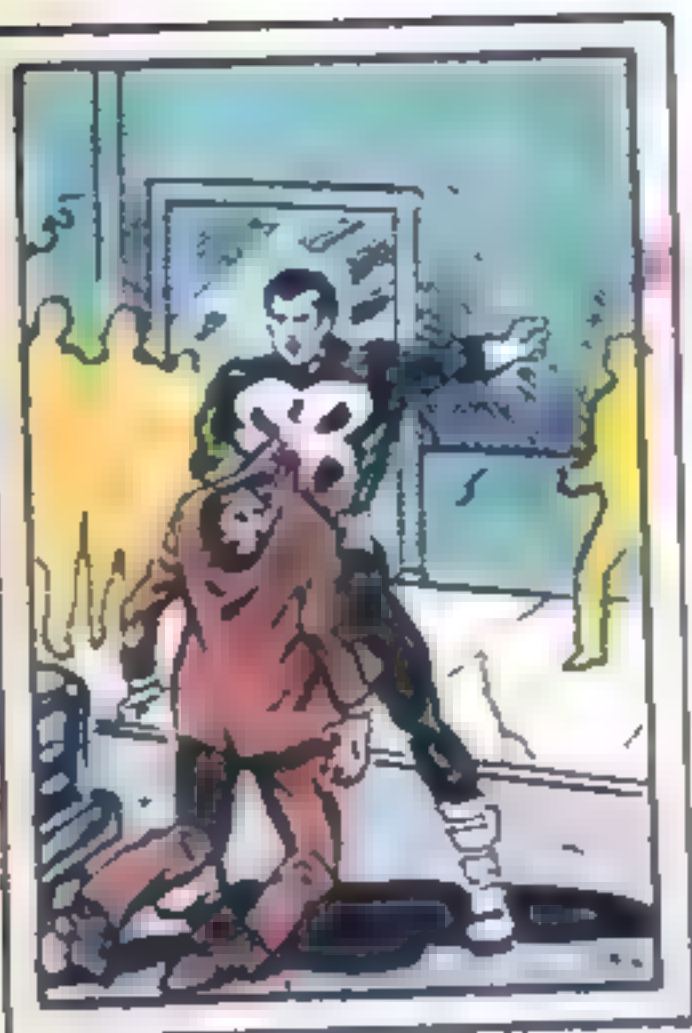
PUNISHER NABS CRIME LORD

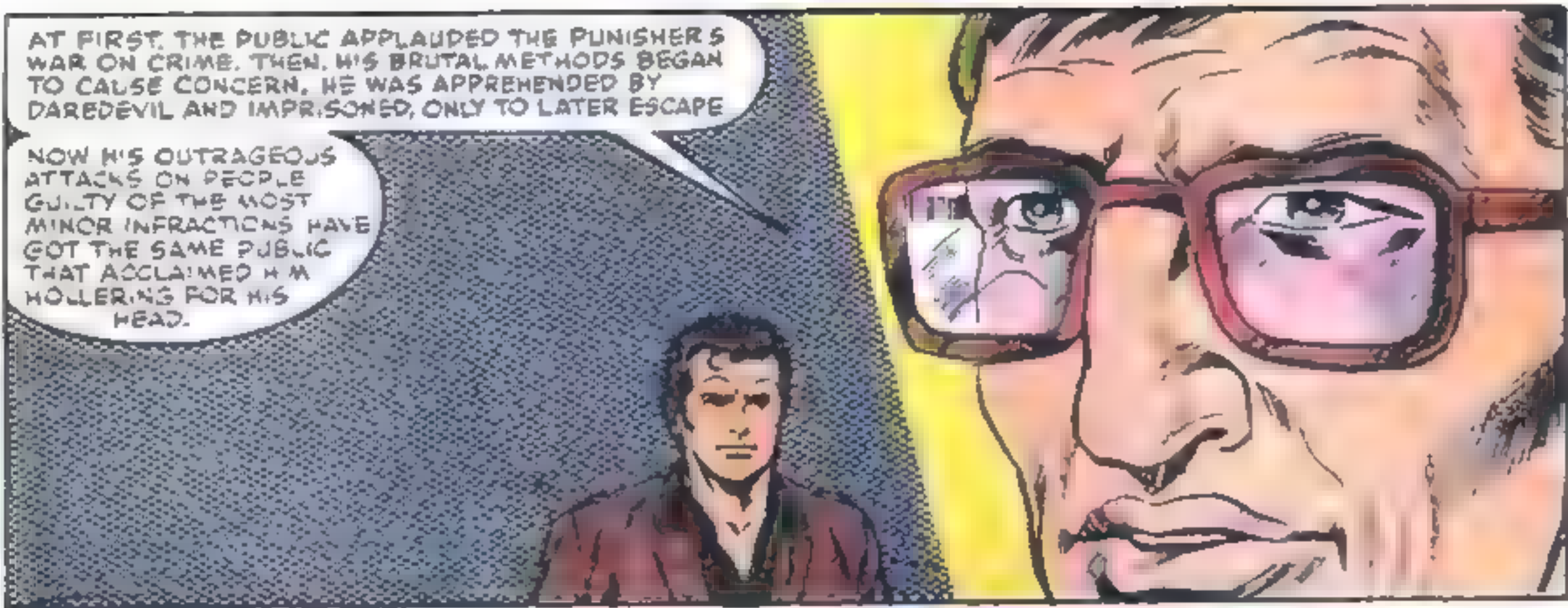
PUNISHER--HERO OR OUTLAW?



"TROUBLE WAS, IT WAS SOMETIMES HARD TO DISTINGUISH THE PUNISHER'S BRAND OF JUSTICE FROM THE CRIMINAL ACTS OF THOSE WHOM HE HUNTED."

"THAT'S WHAT PUT HIM AT ODDS WITH HEROES LIKE SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL."



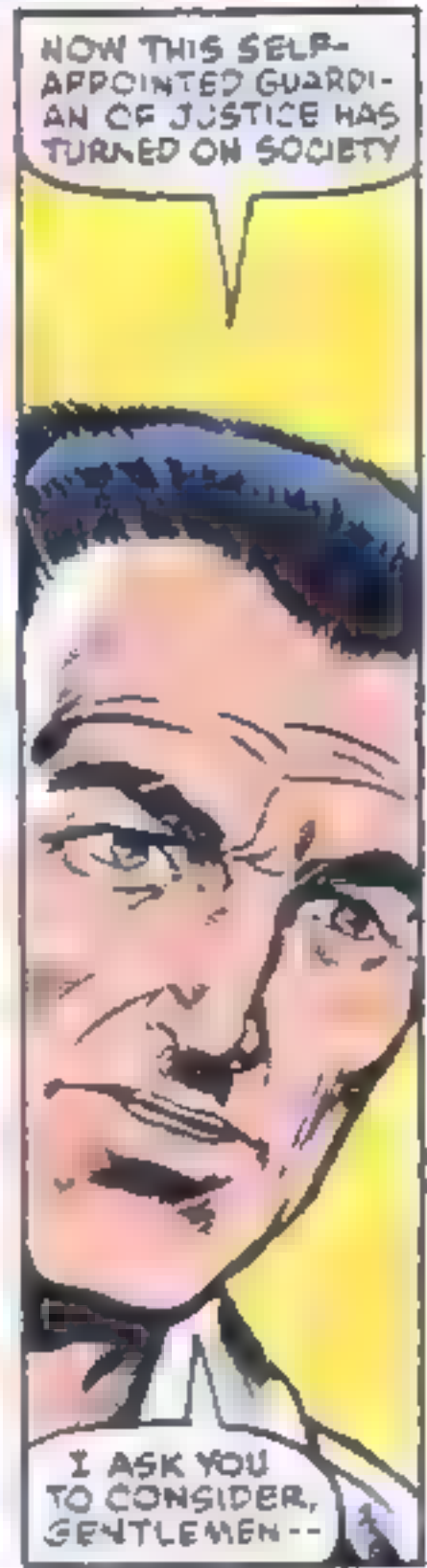


AT FIRST, THE PUBLIC APPLAUDED THE PUNISHER'S WAR ON CRIME. THEN, HIS BRUTAL METHODS BEGAN TO CAUSE CONCERN. HE WAS APPREHENDED BY DAREDEVIL AND IMPRISONED, ONLY TO LATER ESCAPE

NOW HIS OUTRAGEOUS ATTACKS ON PEOPLE GUILTY OF THE MOST MINOR INFRACTIONS HAVE GOT THE SAME PUBLIC THAT ACCLAIMED HIM HOLLERING FOR HIS HEAD.



GOOD REPORT, BEN. YOU'VE PINPOINTED MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PUNISHER. HE'S A VIGILANTE-- OPERATING OUTSIDE THE LAW



NOW THIS SELF-APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF JUSTICE HAS TURNED ON SOCIETY

I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER, GENTLEMEN--



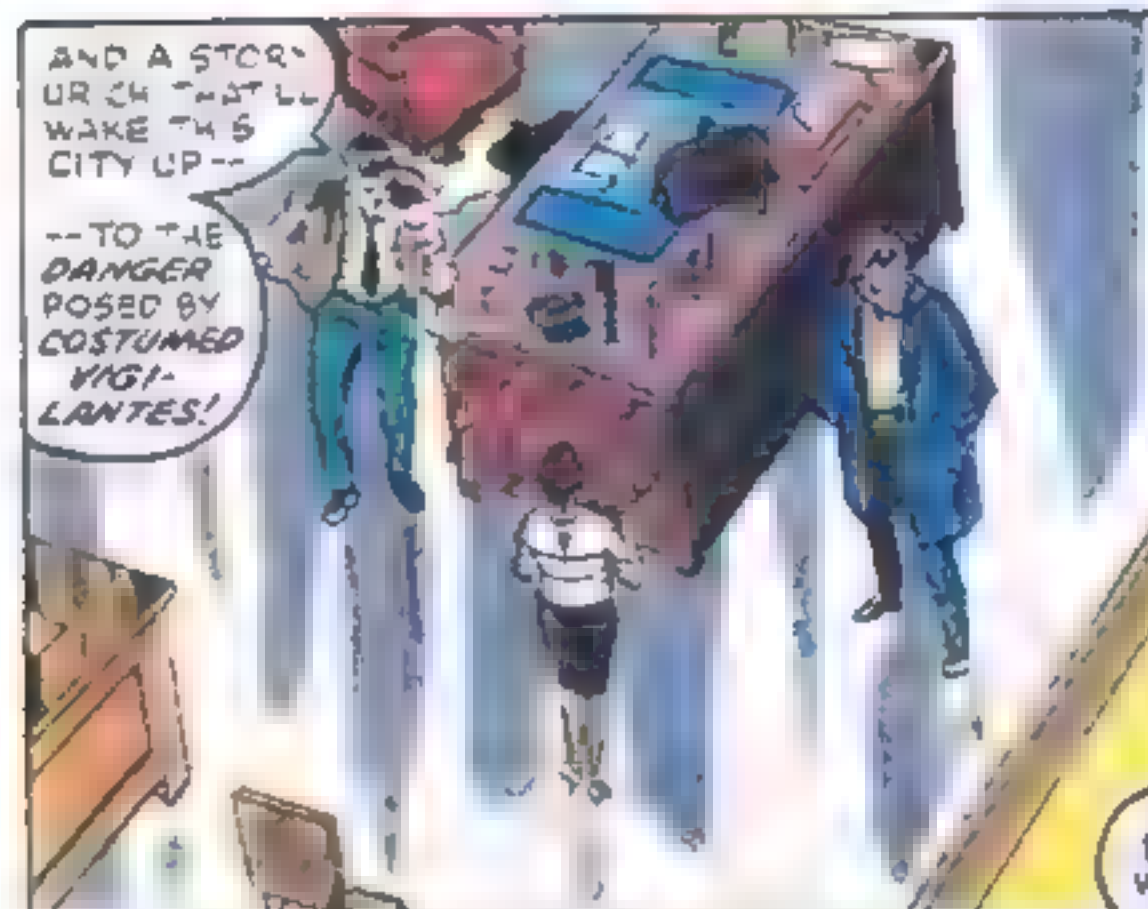
--WHAT IF ONE DAY THE SAME THING HAPPENS WITH SPIDER-MAN??



WHAT? ME...GO BAD? LET LOOSE MY POWERS AGAINST THOSE I'VE SWORN TO PROTECT? NO WAY!

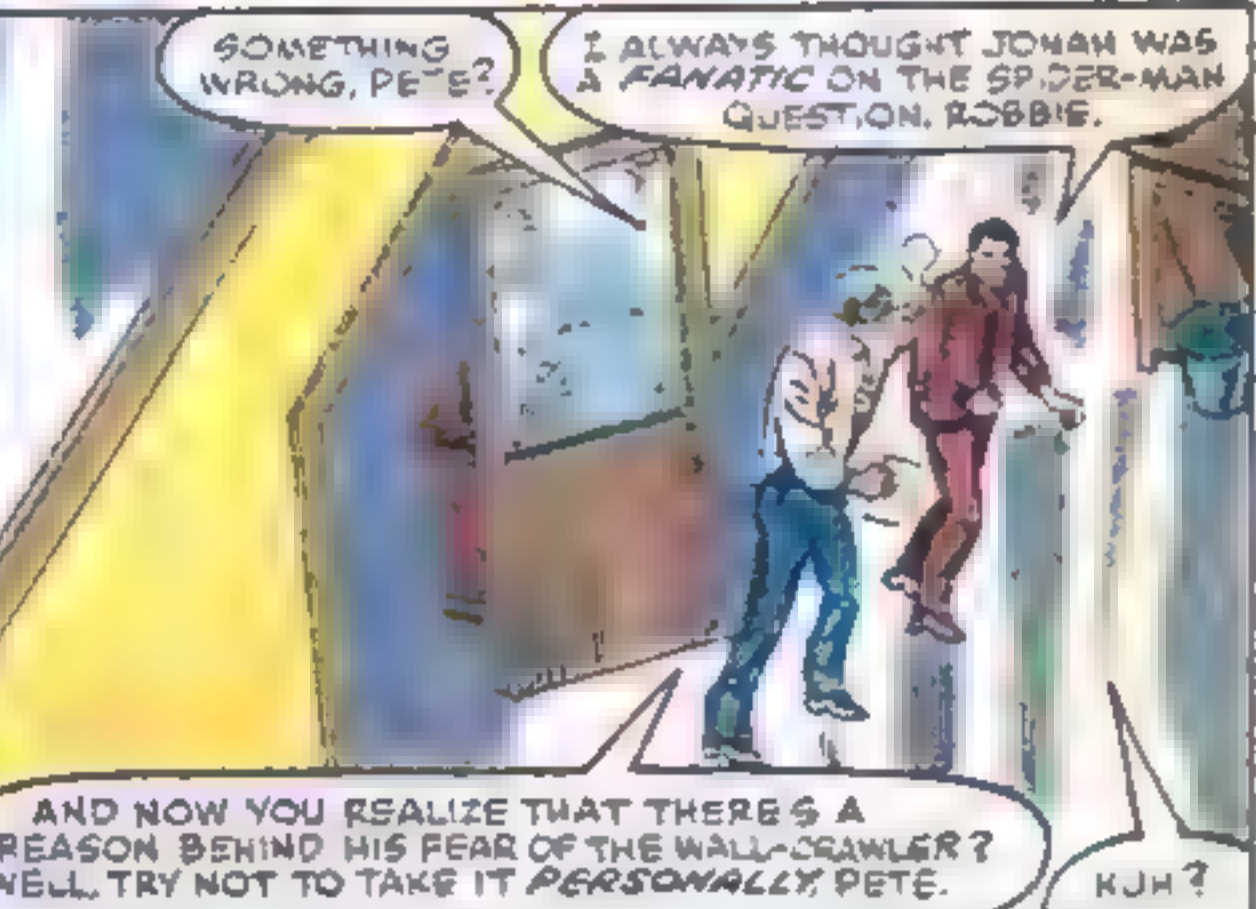
BUT THEN...THE PUNISHER STARTED OUT ON SOCIETY'S SIDE TOO, DIDN'T HE?

QUIT DAY-DREAMING, PARKER. I WANT PICTURES OF THAT TRIAL!--



AND A STORY WHICH WILL WAKE THIS CITY UP--

--TO THE DANGER POSED BY COSTUMED VIGILANTES!



SOMETHING WRONG, PETE?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT JONAH WAS A FANATIC ON THE SPIDER-MAN QUESTION, ROBBIE.

AND NOW YOU REALIZE THAT THERE'S A REASON BEHIND HIS FEAR OF THE WALL-CRAWLER? WELL, TRY NOT TO TAKE IT PERSONALLY, PETE.

KUH?



MANHATTAN
CRIMINAL
COURT.



INSIDE, THE PUNISHER'S PRE-ARRANGEMENT HEARING IS CALLED TO ORDER. IT IS HERE THAT HIS CAPACITY TO RATIONALLY UNDERSTAND THE CRIMINAL NATURE OF HIS RECENT ACTS WILL BE DETERMINED.



MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY TOWER
IF YOU WOULD
PRESENT THE
STATE'S CASE

YOU HONOR THE
STATE ASKS FOR A
CRIMINAL TRIAL.

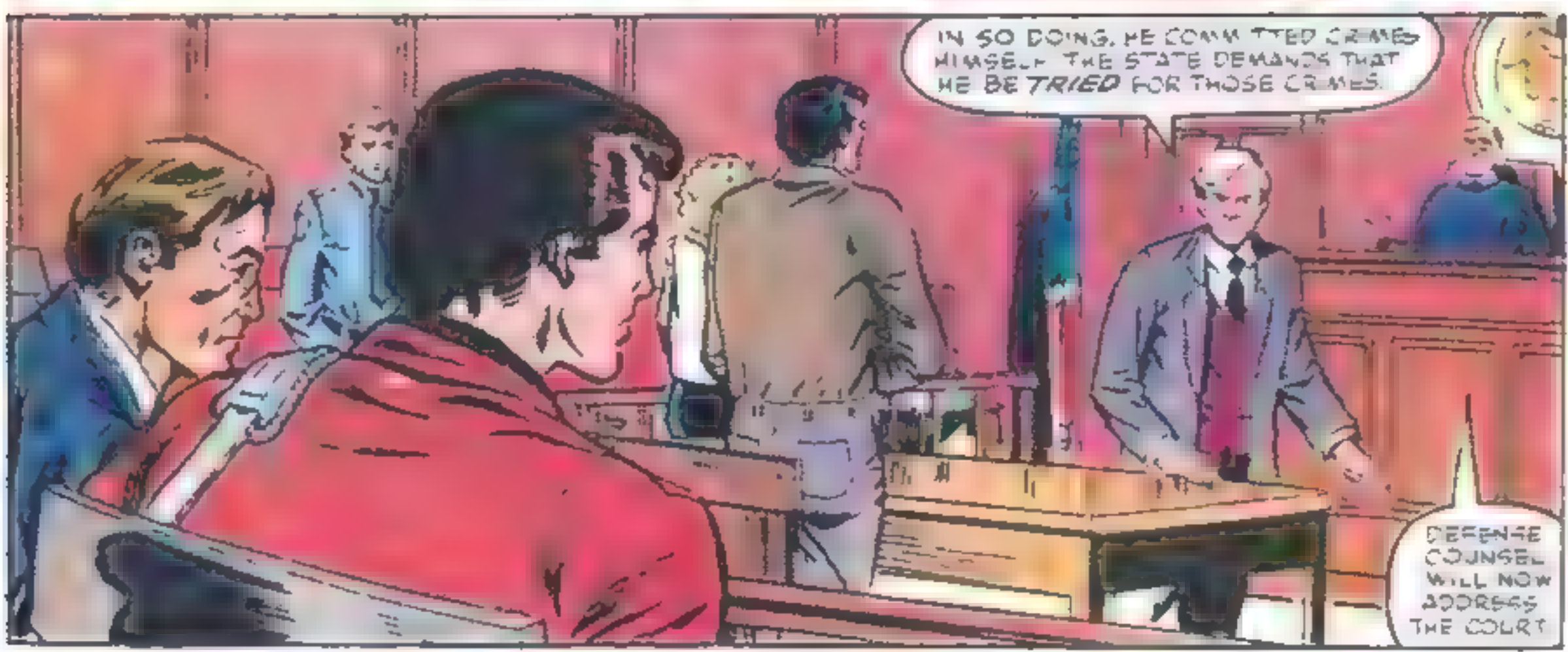


THIS MAN TOOK
IT UPON HIMSELF
TO INTERPRET
AND ENFORCE
THE LAW.



IT WAS A
CONSCIOUS
DECISION.

NOT THE
ACT OF A
MADMAN.



IN SO DOING, HE COMMITTED CRIMES
HIMSELF. THE STATE DEMANDS THAT
HE BE TRIED FOR THOSE CRIMES.

DEFENSE
COUNSEL
WILL NOW
ADDRESS
THE COURT

YOUR HONOR YOU HAVE MY
CLIENT'S PRIOR RECORD BEFORE
YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
TO HIS FAMILY

THAT WOULD
BE ENOUGH TO
DRIVE ANY
MAN *MAD!*

SINCE
THEN HE
HAS WIT-
NESSED
CRIMINAL
ACTS OF
THE UT-
MOST BRU-
TALITY--

--AS WELL
AS HORRIBLE
ATROCITIES
COMMITTED
WITHIN THIS
STATE'S
PRISONS.

IT'S
A "CONSCIOUS
DECISION
AS THE DA
PUTS IT--

--IS THAT SINCE THE STATE IS
OBVIOUSLY INCAPABLE OF EN-
FORCING ITS OWN LAWS OR OF
PUNISHING CRIMINAL ACTS, HE
MUST TAKE ON THE JOB

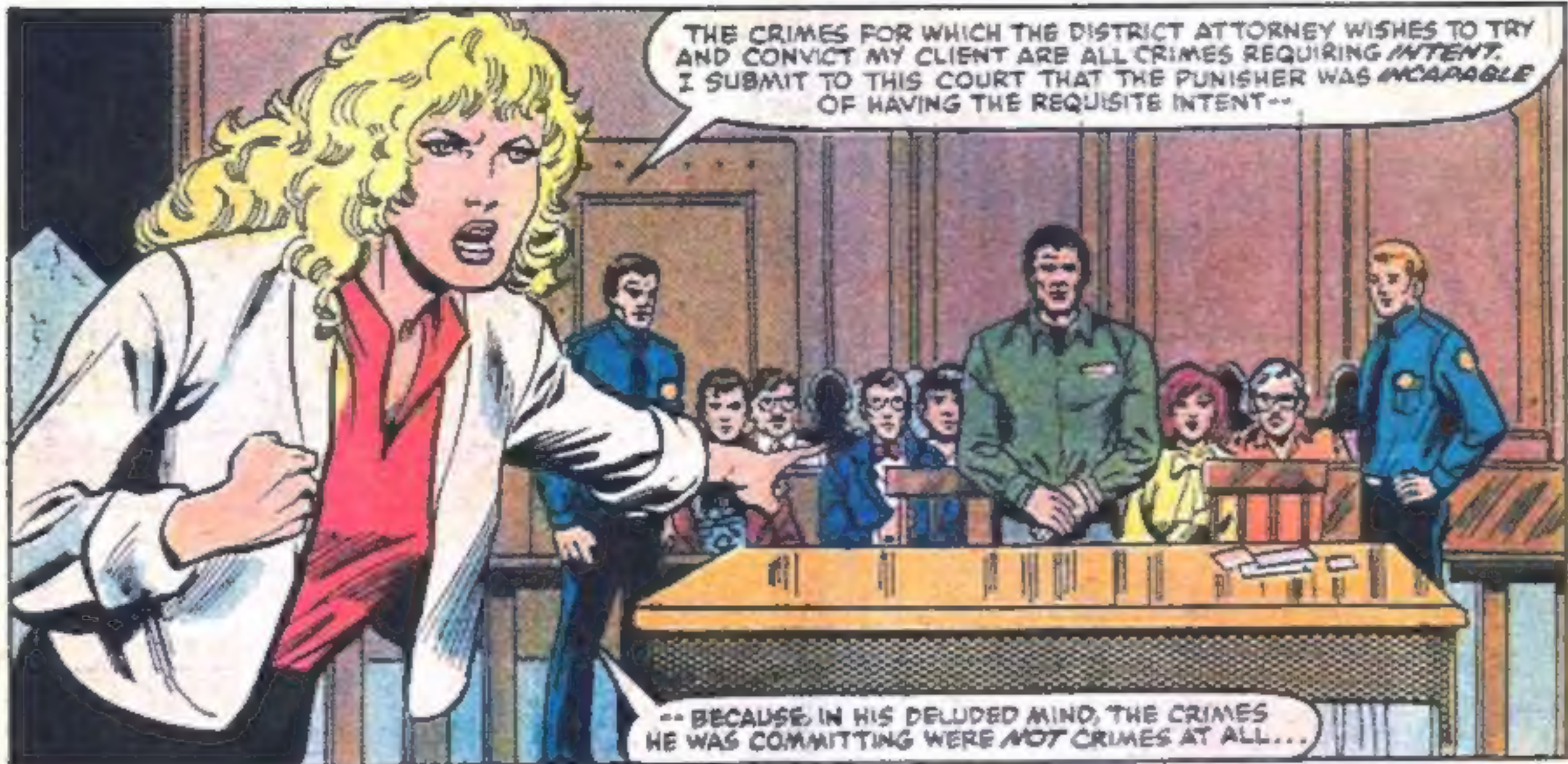
THAT IS HARDLY THE
DECISION OF A
RATIONAL MIND.

NO?

IT IS A DECISION BASED ON
DELUSIONS, YOUR HONOR
THAT ONE MAN CAN MAKE
UP FOR SOCIETY'S INADE-
QUACIES.

IT IS THE
DELUSION OF A
PSYCOPATH WHO HAS
SET HIMSELF UP AS JUDGE
JURY... AND EXECUTIONER.





THE CRIMES FOR WHICH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WISHES TO TRY AND CONVICT MY CLIENT ARE ALL CRIMES REQUIRING *INTENT*. I SUBMIT TO THIS COURT THAT THE PUNISHER WAS *INCAPABLE* OF HAVING THE REQUISITE INTENT--

-- BECAUSE, IN HIS DELUDED MIND, THE CRIMES HE WAS COMMITTING WERE *NOT* CRIMES AT ALL...



...BUT SIMPLY THE HARSH, MERCILESS ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.



I...SEE. THANK YOU, COUNSELLOR, FOR A MOST ILLUMINATING EXPOSTULATION OF...INSANITY.

I BELIEVE THE DECISION I MUST MAKE IS CLEAR...



A MAN CANNOT STAND TRIAL IN THIS STATE--



--UNLESS HE IS CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM--

--AND OF THE PROCEEDINGS BY WHICH HE WILL BE JUDGED.

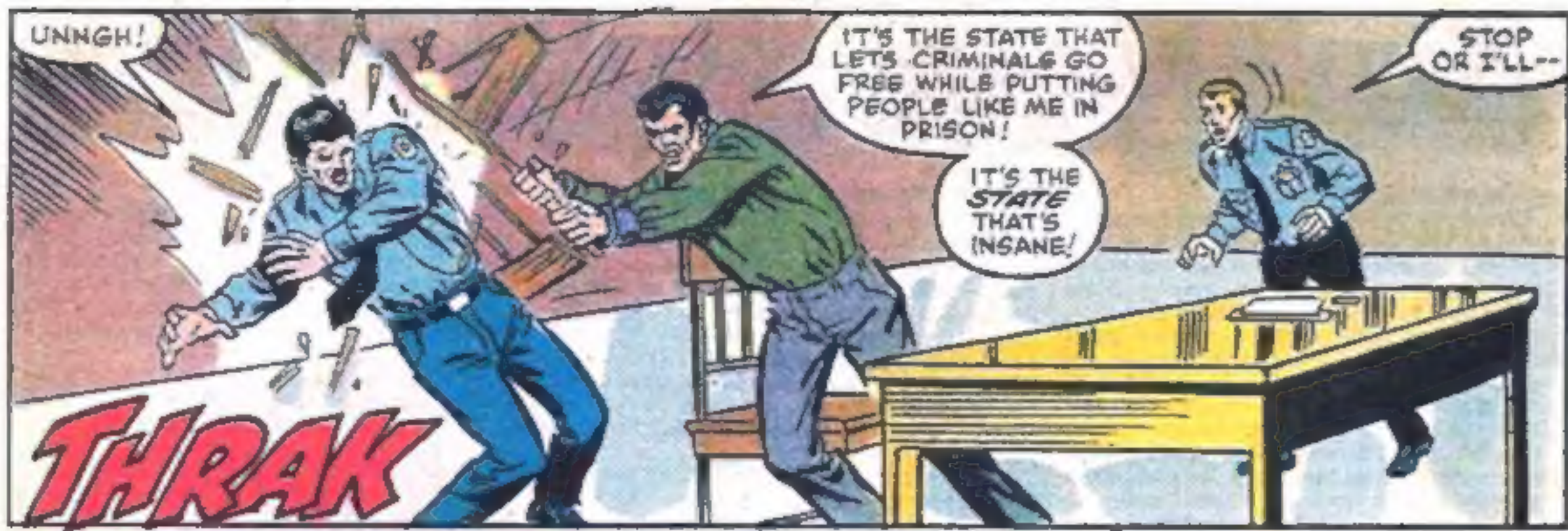


I DEEM THE PUNISHER INCAPABLE OF SUCH UNDERSTANDING--



--AND RULE THAT HE BE COMMITTED TO A MAXIMUM SECURITY MENTAL INSTITUTION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE IS WELL ENOUGH TO STAND TRIAL.

NO. I'M NOT CRAZY.





IF YOU CAN CONVINCE THE DOCTORS THERE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT-- THAT ONLY YOU CAN SAVE SOCIETY--



--THEY'LL HAVE TO REPORT THAT YOU'RE *SANE* AND LET YOU GO!



CONVINCE THEM? BUT THEY THINK SOCIETY'S BEING RUN CORRECTLY.



THEY'RE CRAZY. YOU CAN'T REASON WITH CRAZY PEOPLE.



THEY JUST CAN'T SEE THINGS LIKE I SEE THEM.



THEY JUST CAN'T SEE...



PLEASE--



--NO PICTURES.



YEAH.

TOO BAD, PETE-- BUT I'VE GOT THE STORY.

WANT TO SHARE A CAB BACK TO THE BUGLE?

NO THANKS, BEN. I'LL WALK--



-- AND WONDER ABOUT MY OWN BRAND OF COSTUMED CRIME-FIGHTING--



...AND ABOUT WHETHER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PUNISHER--

-- WILL EVER HAPPEN TO... SPIDER-MAN?

END

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hi. I'm Danny Fingeroth. Until recently I was Louise Jones' assistant editor on X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS and a zillion other titles. When Tom DeFalco got himself promoted to Executive Editor, I suddenly found myself taking his place as editor of the Spider-Man titles. Yikes! Scary. Lots of responsibility. Lots of work. And what a tough act to follow! But my new assistant Bob DeNatale and I (not to mention a handful of hotshot freelancers) are gonna do our best to keep this line as good as it's been. And we're gonna need your help to do it right, so keep us posted on our progress.

By the way, I'm still editing KA-ZAR THE SAVAGE. It's still the most off-beat, most exciting jungle-adventure-secretly-a-romance comic you'll ever find. And double-sized issue #29 will be on sale in comics shops and newsstands. Give it a shot.

See ya,

Danny

Dear Marvel,

I don't know how you do it. I've been collecting all of Spidey's titles for a while and you still keep coming back issue after issue with exciting, touching, action-filled titles.

"The Long Goodbye" had everything in it: old friends like Flash and Harry, loved ones like Aunt May and the Black Cat, and the most hated nemesis — Doc Ock. I thought prolonging the confrontation between Spidey and Doc Ock a full issue would be boring. You guys proved me wrong! I now see that it was necessary in order to show Peter's true feelings towards the most important people in his life. I've just got to congratulate you again on issue #78's storyline by Bill Mantlo and the continuingly superb artwork by Al Milgrom and Jim Mooney. I don't think we'll be seeing Doc Ock for a long time after next issue.

Scott Schaler

1752 John St.

Merrick, NY 11566

Maybe so, Scott, but you know that's just gonna give him time to nurse a king-sized grudge!

Dear Tom,

I have a confession to make. I never really liked the Black Cat. As a matter of fact, I would rather have sat through a 12-issue run of Hydroman and the Ringer than glance at one panel of Felicia Hardy. Like any other warm-blooded Spectacular Spider-fan, I kept the faith and suffered through it. But, recently, the "suffering" stopped. Black Cat began to grow on me, and apparently she had the same effect on our hero as well, but in a much bigger way. And now I have had a change of heart. Our aforementioned hero has fought too long and hard to lose her now, and this story has developed over too long a time to end on a sour note, such as the death of the Cat at the hands (or arms) of Doc Ock.

But that isn't all. Never before have I gotten so involved in a comic book as I did in PPTSS #78. I shuffled through the pages in record time, eagerly awaiting the final battle. I actually caught myself smiling and starting

to shiver at the prospect of Spider-Man revealing his identity to the world, practically ripping the pages out to see it happen, priming me for the fight! But wait! What does that blue box say? To be continued?! Nooo! How could you be so cruel?

Then I felt compelled to write and tell you all what your combined efforts achieved for this true believer. I don't think you will ever top it. But I haven't seen #79 yet. Thirty days... how about going bi-weekly?

Marshall Nelson

6241 Wentz Hollow Rd.

Huntington, WV 25702

That might prove to be a bit much for our already overworked creative team, Marshall. But if you want more Spider-Man, there's always THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TEAM-UP, MARVEL TALES and THE AVENGERS. (Did we say THE AVENGERS? Why don't you check out the issue now on sale and see!)

Dear Tom and Eliot,

Hmm... an issue with little "action" in the traditional sense, but filled with sad good-byes to friends and acquaintances. Not what I might have expected from PPTSS #78, but who can predict the plotlines in this series?

Unexpected or not, this was a particularly fine story with much to recommend it and little to detract from the great idea of a hero preparing for a battle he knows he might not live through. Though some of the encounters seemed a bit too set up for my tastes, the story had a melancholy charm that can't be denied. And — surprise, surprise — Bill even has me looking forward to a "bombastic battle issue." Nice work, guys.

David Allen

Olney Central College

5 Douglas Dr.

Olney, IL 62450

Dear Bill, Al and Jim:

Bravo! I just read PPTSS #79 and decided I'd write my first letter to Marvel.

The main point I want to make is that this was one of the few stories I've ever read that kept the action up from page 1 through 23. Only a couple of other comics have had this kind of fast-paced action. Spider-Man is after Doctor Octopus who is after the Black Cat. The action didn't stop until the last page.

I also want to compliment Al and Jim on the artwork. They kept Spidey exciting to look at, even if he was only talking or thinking.

Although I enjoyed the story very much, I could not believe that Doctor Octopus would give up that easily. I expect to see him in the future of our favorite wall-crawler. Also, I hope you won't slow down the pace in order for Spidey to gather up his life. I don't mind if you use a page or two every issue for this, but more than that would kill the roll you are on right now.

My first major comic interest was PPTSS, and I have seen it rise to great levels. Thank you for the excellence.

Greg Short

3509 Norwood Ave.

Columbus, OH 43224

Thank you, Greg. Did Doc Ock surrender too quickly? Not if you consider he was bashed and battered throughout the entire story — and it finally sank in that he wasn't going to beat Spidey. Doc may be crazy, but he's not stupid.

Dear Bill:

PPTSS #79 was positively the best comic I bought this year!

Mike Stover

533 Missimer Lane

Vinton, VA 24179

Dear Editor:

PPTSS #79 was excellent! Having Doctor Octopus even stronger than ever before and insanely angry at Spider-Man and the Black Cat was something else. The battle itself was well worth the wait. It couldn't have gotten any better. However, it was a shame that Spidey's camera got dunked — I'm sure he would have gotten pictures of the battle of the century! I guess not even Spider-Man can win them all.

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NEXT ISSUE: Bill Mantlo teams up with special guest artist Dave Simons to bring you "Kidnapped — not a story by Robert Louis Stevenson." What it is is one of the most unique stories ever. We're proud of it. Be here in thirty and see why.

